

## ***Health Law Notices***

### **Health Plan Special Enrollment Rights**

If you are declining enrollment for yourself or your dependents (including your spouse) because of other health plan coverage, you may in the future be able to enroll yourself and/or your dependents in this plan, provided that you request enrollment within 30 days after you or your dependents lose eligibility for that other coverage (or employer contributions toward that coverage end). In addition, if you have a new dependent as a result of marriage, birth, adoption, or placement for adoption, you may be able to enroll yourself and your dependents, provided that you request enrollment within 30 days after the marriage, birth, adoption, or placement for adoption.

To request special enrollment, contact Kim Pelczar, Benefits Coordinator, in the Department of Human Resources.

---

### **Newborns and Mother's Health Protection Act**

Group health plans and health insurance issuers generally may not, under Federal law, restrict benefits for any hospital length of stay in connection with childbirth for the mother or newborn child to less than 48 hours following a vaginal delivery, or less than 96 hours following a cesarean section. However, Federal law generally does not prohibit the mother's or newborn's attending provider, after consulting with the mother, from discharging the mother or her newborn earlier than 48 hours (or 96 hours as applicable). In any case, plans and issuers may not, under Federal law, require that a provider obtain authorization from the plan or the insurance issuer for prescribing a length of stay not in excess of 48 hours (or 96 hours).

---

### **Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998**

Do you know that your plan, as required by the Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998, provides benefits for mastectomy-related services including all stages of reconstruction and surgery to achieve symmetry between the breasts, prostheses, and complications resulting from a mastectomy, including lymphedema? Call Kim Pelczar, Benefits Coordinator at 301-645-0563 for more information.

---

### **Important Notice from Charles County Government about Your Prescription Drug Coverage and Medicare**

Please read this notice carefully and keep it where you can find it. This notice has information about your current prescription drug coverage with Charles County Government and about your options under Medicare's prescription drug coverage. This information can help you decide whether or not you want to join a Medicare drug plan. If you are considering joining, you should compare your current coverage, including which drugs are covered at what cost, with the coverage and costs of the plans offering Medicare prescription drug coverage in your area.

Information about where you can get help to make decisions about your prescription drug coverage is at the end of this notice.

There are two important things you need to know about your current coverage and Medicare's prescription drug coverage:

1. Medicare prescription drug coverage became available in 2006 to everyone with Medicare. You can get this coverage if you join a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan or join a Medicare Advantage Plan (like an HMO or PPO) that offers prescription drug coverage. All Medicare drug plans provide at least a standard level of coverage set by Medicare. Some plans may also offer more coverage for a higher monthly premium.
2. Charles County Government has determined that the prescription drug coverage offered by the Charles County Government is, on average for all plan participants, expected to pay out as much as standard Medicare prescription drug coverage pays and is therefore considered Creditable Coverage. Because your existing coverage is Creditable Coverage, you can keep this coverage and not pay a higher premium (a penalty) if you later decide to join a Medicare drug plan.

### **When Can You Join A Medicare Drug Plan?**

You can join a Medicare drug plan when you first become eligible for Medicare and each year from October 15th through December 7th. However, if you lose your current creditable prescription drug coverage, through no fault of your own, you will also be eligible for a two (2) month Special Enrollment Period (SEP) to join a Medicare drug plan.

### **What Happens To Your Current Coverage If You Decide to Join A Medicare Drug Plan?**

If you decide to join a Medicare drug plan, your current Charles County Government coverage will be affected. Your current coverage pays for other health expenses in addition to prescription drugs. If you enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan, you and your eligible dependents will not be eligible to receive all of your current health and prescription drug benefits.

If you do decide to join a Medicare drug plan and drop your current Charles County Government coverage, be aware that you and your dependents will not be able to get this coverage back.

### **When Will You Pay A Higher Premium (Penalty) To Join A Medicare Drug Plan?**

You should also know that if you drop or lose your current coverage with Charles County Government and don't join a Medicare drug plan within 63 continuous days after your current coverage ends, you may pay a higher premium (a penalty) to join a Medicare drug plan later. If you go 63 continuous days or longer without creditable prescription drug coverage, your monthly premium may go up by at least 1% of the Medicare base beneficiary premium per month for every month that you did not have that coverage. For example, if you go nineteen months without creditable coverage, your premium may consistently be at least 19% higher than the Medicare base beneficiary premium. You may have to pay this higher premium (a penalty) as long as you have Medicare prescription drug coverage. In addition, you may have to wait until the following October to join.

## **For More Information About This Notice Or Your Current Prescription Drug Coverage...**

Contact the person listed below for further information [or call Kim Pelczar at 301-645-0563].

**NOTE:** You'll get this notice each year. You will also get it before the next period you can join a Medicare drug plan, and if this coverage through Charles County Government changes. You also may request a copy of this notice at any time.

## **For More Information About Your Options Under Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage...**

More detailed information about Medicare plans that offer prescription drug coverage is in the "Medicare & You" handbook. You'll get a copy of the handbook in the mail every year from Medicare. You may also be contacted directly by Medicare drug plans.

For more information about Medicare prescription drug coverage:

- Visit [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov)
- Call your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (see the inside back cover of your copy of the "Medicare & You" handbook for their telephone number) for personalized help
- Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

If you have limited income and resources, extra help paying for Medicare prescription drug coverage is available. For information about this extra help, visit Social Security on the web at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov), or call them at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

Name of Entity/Sender: Charles County Government  
Contact: Megan Donnicks, Assistant Director of HR  
Address: PO BOX 2150, La Plata, MD 20646  
Phone Number: 301-645-0503

**Remember: Keep this Creditable Coverage notice. If you decide to join one of the Medicare drug plans, you may be required to provide a copy of this notice when you join to show whether or not you have maintained creditable coverage and, therefore, whether or not you are required to pay a higher premium (a penalty).**

---

## **Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)** **Offer Free Or Low-Cost Health Coverage To Children And Families**

If you are eligible for health coverage from your employer, but are unable to afford the premiums, some States have premium assistance programs that can help pay for coverage. These States use funds from their Medicaid or CHIP programs to help people who are eligible for employer-sponsored health coverage, but need assistance in paying their health premiums.

If you or your dependents are already enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP and you live in a State listed below, you can contact your State Medicaid or CHIP office to find out if premium assistance is available.

If you or your dependents are NOT currently enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP, and you think you or any of your dependents might be eligible for either of these programs, you can contact your State Medicaid or CHIP office or dial **1-877-KIDS NOW** or **[www.insurekidsnow.gov](http://www.insurekidsnow.gov)** to find out how to apply. If you qualify, you can ask the State if it has a program that might help you pay the premiums for an employer-sponsored plan.

Once it is determined that you or your dependents are eligible for premium assistance under Medicaid or CHIP, your employer's health plan is required to permit you and your dependents to enroll in the plan – as long as you and your dependents are eligible, but not already enrolled in the employer's plan. This is called a "special enrollment" opportunity, and **you must request coverage within 60 days of being determined eligible for premium assistance.**

---

**If you live in one of the following states, you may be eligible for assistance paying your employer health plan premiums. The following list of states is current as of January 31, 2016. Contact your State for more information on eligibility –**

ALABAMA – Medicaid	GEORGIA – Medicaid
Website: <a href="http://myalhipp.com/">http://myalhipp.com/</a>  Phone: 1-855-692-5447	Website: <a href="http://dch.georgia.gov/medicaid">http://dch.georgia.gov/medicaid</a>  - Click on Health Insurance Premium Payment (HIPP)  Phone: 404-656-4507
ALASKA – Medicaid	INDIANA – Medicaid
Website:  <a href="http://health.hss.state.ak.us/dpa/programs/medicaid/">http://health.hss.state.ak.us/dpa/programs/medicaid/</a>  Phone (Outside of Anchorage): 1-888-318-8890  Phone (Anchorage): 907-269-6529	Healthy Indiana Plan for low-income adults 19-64  Website: <a href="http://www.hip.in.gov">http://www.hip.in.gov</a>  Phone: 1-877-438-4479  All other Medicaid  Website: <a href="http://www.indianamedicaid.com">http://www.indianamedicaid.com</a>  Phone 1-800-403-0864

<b>COLORADO – Medicaid</b>	<b>IOWA – Medicaid</b>
Medicaid Website: <a href="http://www.colorado.gov/hcpf">http://www.colorado.gov/hcpf</a> Medicaid Customer Contact Center: 1-800-221-3943	Website: <a href="http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/hipp/">http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/hipp/</a> Phone: 1-888-346-9562
<b>FLORIDA – Medicaid</b>	<b>KANSAS – Medicaid</b>
Website: <a href="http://flmedicaidprecovery.com/hipp/">http://flmedicaidprecovery.com/hipp/</a> Phone: 1-877-357-3268	Website: <a href="http://www.kdheks.gov/hcf/">http://www.kdheks.gov/hcf/</a> Phone: 1-785-296-3512
<b>KENTUCKY – Medicaid</b>	<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE – Medicaid</b>
Website: <a href="http://chfs.ky.gov/dms/default.htm">http://chfs.ky.gov/dms/default.htm</a> Phone: 1-800-635-2570	Website: <a href="http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/oii/documents/hippapp.pdf">http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/oii/documents/hippapp.pdf</a> Phone: 603-271-5218
<b>LOUISIANA – Medicaid</b>	<b>NEW JERSEY – Medicaid and CHIP</b>
Website: <a href="http://dhh.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/subhome/1/n/331">http://dhh.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/subhome/1/n/331</a> Phone: 1-888-695-2447	Medicaid Website: <a href="http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmahs/clients/medicaid/">http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmahs/clients/medicaid/</a> Medicaid Phone: 609-631-2392 CHIP Website: <a href="http://www.njfamilycare.org/index.html">http://www.njfamilycare.org/index.html</a> CHIP Phone: 1-800-701-0710
<b>MAINE – Medicaid</b>	<b>NEW YORK – Medicaid</b>
Website: <a href="http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ofi/public-assistance/index.html">http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ofi/public-assistance/index.html</a> Phone: 1-800-442-6003 TTY: Maine relay 711	Website: <a href="http://www.nyhealth.gov/health_care/medicaid/">http://www.nyhealth.gov/health_care/medicaid/</a> Phone: 1-800-541-2831
<b>MASSACHUSETTS – Medicaid and CHIP</b>	<b>NORTH CAROLINA – Medicaid</b>
Website: <a href="http://www.mass.gov/MassHealth">http://www.mass.gov/MassHealth</a> Phone: 1-800-462-1120	Website: <a href="http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dma">http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dma</a> Phone: 919-855-4100

<b>MINNESOTA – Medicaid</b>	<b>NORTH DAKOTA – Medicaid</b>
Website: <a href="http://mn.gov/dhs/ma/">http://mn.gov/dhs/ma/</a> Phone: 1-800-657-3739	Website: <a href="http://www.nd.gov/dhs/services/medicalserv/medicaid/">http://www.nd.gov/dhs/services/medicalserv/medicaid/</a> Phone: 1-844-854-4825
<b>MISSOURI – Medicaid</b>	<b>OKLAHOMA – Medicaid and CHIP</b>
Website: <a href="http://www.dss.mo.gov/mhd/participants/pages/hipp.htm">http://www.dss.mo.gov/mhd/participants/pages/hipp.htm</a> Phone: 573-751-2005	Website: <a href="http://www.insureoklahoma.org">http://www.insureoklahoma.org</a> Phone: 1-888-365-3742
<b>MONTANA – Medicaid</b>	<b>OREGON – Medicaid</b>
Website: <a href="http://dphhs.mt.gov/MontanaHealthcarePrograms/HIPP">http://dphhs.mt.gov/MontanaHealthcarePrograms/HIPP</a> Phone: 1-800-694-3084	Website: <a href="http://www.oregonhealthykids.gov">http://www.oregonhealthykids.gov</a> <a href="http://www.hijossaludablesoregon.gov">http://www.hijossaludablesoregon.gov</a> Phone: 1-800-699-9075
<b>NEBRASKA – Medicaid</b>	<b>PENNSYLVANIA – Medicaid</b>
Website: <a href="http://dhhs.ne.gov/Children_Family_Services/AccessNebraska/Pages/accessnebraska_index.aspx">http://dhhs.ne.gov/Children_Family_Services/AccessNebraska/Pages/accessnebraska_index.aspx</a> Phone: 1-855-632-7633	Website: <a href="http://www.dhs.pa.gov/hipp">http://www.dhs.pa.gov/hipp</a> Phone: 1-800-692-7462
<b>NEVADA – Medicaid</b>	<b>RHODE ISLAND – Medicaid</b>
Medicaid Website: <a href="http://dwss.nv.gov/">http://dwss.nv.gov/</a> Medicaid Phone: 1-800-992-0900	Website: <a href="http://www.eohhs.ri.gov/">http://www.eohhs.ri.gov/</a> Phone: 401-462-5300
<b>SOUTH CAROLINA – Medicaid</b>	<b>VIRGINIA – Medicaid and CHIP</b>
Website: <a href="http://www.scdhhs.gov">http://www.scdhhs.gov</a> Phone: 1-888-549-0820	Medicaid Website: <a href="http://www.coverva.org/programs_premium_assistance.cfm">http://www.coverva.org/programs_premium_assistance.cfm</a> Medicaid Phone: 1-800-432-5924  CHIP Website: <a href="http://www.coverva.org/programs_premium_assistance.cfm">http://www.coverva.org/programs_premium_assistance.cfm</a> CHIP Phone: 1-855-242-8282

<b>SOUTH DAKOTA - Medicaid</b>	<b>WASHINGTON – Medicaid</b>
Website: <a href="http://dss.sd.gov">http://dss.sd.gov</a> Phone: 1-888-828-0059	Website: <a href="http://www.hca.wa.gov/medicaid/premiumpymt/pages/index.aspx">http://www.hca.wa.gov/medicaid/premiumpymt/pages/index.aspx</a> Phone: 1-800-562-3022 ext. 15473
<b>TEXAS – Medicaid</b>	<b>WEST VIRGINIA – Medicaid</b>
Website: <a href="http://gethipptexas.com/">http://gethipptexas.com/</a> Phone: 1-800-440-0493	Website: <a href="http://www.dhhr.wv.gov/bms/Medicaid%20Expansion/Pages/default.aspx">http://www.dhhr.wv.gov/bms/Medicaid%20Expansion/Pages/default.aspx</a> Phone: 1-877-598-5820, HMS Third Party Liability
<b>UTAH – Medicaid and CHIP</b>	<b>WISCONSIN – Medicaid and CHIP</b>
Website: Medicaid: <a href="http://health.utah.gov/medicaid">http://health.utah.gov/medicaid</a> CHIP: <a href="http://health.utah.gov/chip">http://health.utah.gov/chip</a> Phone: 1-877-543-7669	Website: <a href="https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p1/p10095.pdf">https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p1/p10095.pdf</a> Phone: 1-800-362-3002
<b>VERMONT– Medicaid</b>	<b>WYOMING – Medicaid</b>
Website: <a href="http://www.greenmountaincare.org/">http://www.greenmountaincare.org/</a> Phone: 1-800-250-8427	Website: <a href="https://wyequalitycare.acs-inc.com/">https://wyequalitycare.acs-inc.com/</a> Phone: 307-777-7531

To see if any other states have added a premium assistance program since January 31, 2016, or for more information on special enrollment rights, contact either:

U.S. Department of Labor  
Employee Benefits Security Administration  
[www.dol.gov/ebsa](http://www.dol.gov/ebsa)  
1-866-444-EBSA (3272)

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
[www.cms.hhs.gov](http://www.cms.hhs.gov)  
1-877-267-2323, Menu Option 4, Ext. 61565

## **Charles County Government and its Affiliated Entities**

### **NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES**

**THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES HOW MEDICAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOU MAY BE USED AND DISCLOSED AND HOW YOU CAN GET ACCESS TO THIS INFORMATION. PLEASE REVIEW IT CAREFULLY.**

#### **THE PRIVACY OF YOUR MEDICAL INFORMATION IS IMPORTANT TO US.**

The following entities, affiliated with Charles County Government, are covered by this notice. This notice applies to the privacy practices of the health plan(s) listed below. As affiliated (related) entities, we may share your protected health information and the protected health information of others on your insurance policy as needed for payment or health care operations.

CareFirst BlueChoice Advantage  
CareFirst BlueChoice Open Access  
CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield Standard Over 65 Plan  
CareFirst PPO Dental Plan  
CareFirst BlueChoice Davis Vision Plan  
Delta Dental PPO  
Benefit Resources Inc., Flexible Spending Accounts including Health and Dependent Care accounts

#### **Our Legal Duty**

This Notice describes our privacy practices, which include how we might use, disclose (share or give out), collect, handle, and protect our members' protected health information. We are required by certain federal and state laws to maintain the privacy of your protected health information. We are also required to give you this notice about our privacy practices, our legal duties, and your rights concerning your protected health information. We must follow the privacy practices that are described in this notice while it is in effect. This notice takes effect April 14, 2003, and is not intended to amend any prior notice of Charles County Government's privacy practices.

We reserve the right to change our privacy practices and the terms of this notice at any time, as long as law permits the changes. We reserve the right to make the changes in our privacy practices and the new terms of our notice effective for all protected health information that we maintain, including protected health information we created or received before we made the changes. If we make a significant change in our privacy practices, we will change this notice and send the new notice to our health plan subscribers within sixty days of the effective date of the change.

You may request a copy of our notice at any time. For more information about our privacy practices, or for additional copies of this notice, please contact us using the information listed at the end of this notice.



## Uses and Disclosures of Medical Information

### Primary Uses and Disclosures of Protected Health Information

We use and disclose protected health information about you for payment and health care operations. The federal health care Privacy Regulations generally do not “preempt” (or take precedence over) state privacy or other applicable laws that provide individuals greater privacy protections. As a result, to the extent state law applies, the privacy laws of a particular state, or other federal laws, rather than the HIPAA Privacy Regulations, might impose a privacy standard under which we will be required to operate. For example, where such laws have been enacted, we will follow more stringent state privacy laws that relate to uses and disclosures of the protected health information concerning HIV or AIDS, mental health, substance abuse/chemical dependency, genetic testing, reproductive rights. In addition to these state law requirements, we also may use or disclose protected health information in the following situations:

**Payment:** We may use and disclose your protected health information for all activities related to payment for health care services. For example, we might use and disclose your protected health information to pay claims for services provided to you by doctors, hospitals, pharmacies and others for services delivered to you that are covered by your health plan. We might also use your information to determine your eligibility for benefits, to coordinate benefits, to examine medical necessity, to obtain premiums, and to issue explanations of benefits to the person who subscribes to the health plan in which you participate.

**Health Care Operations:** We may use and disclose your protected health information for all activities that are included within the definition of “health care operations” as defined in the federal privacy regulations. For example, we might use and disclose your protected health information to determine our premiums for your health plan, to conduct quality assessment and improvement activities, to engage in care coordination or case management, and to manage our business.

**Business Associates.** In connection with our payment and health care operations activities, we contract with individuals and entities (called “business associates”) to perform various functions on our behalf or to provide certain types of services (such as member service support, utilization management, subrogation, or pharmacy benefit management). To perform these functions or to provide the services, our business associates will receive, create, maintain, use, or disclose protected health information, but only after we require the business associates to agree in writing to contract terms designed to appropriately safeguard your information.

**Other Covered Entities.** In addition, we may use or disclose your protected health information to assist health care providers in connection with *their* treatment or payment activities, or to assist other covered entities in connection with certain of *their* health care operations. For example, we might disclose your protected health information to a health care provider when needed by the provider to render treatment to you, and we may disclose protected health information to another covered entity to conduct health care operations in the areas of quality assurance and improvement activities, or accreditation, certification, licensing or credentialing.

### Other Possible Uses and Disclosures of Protected Health Information

The following is a description of other possible ways in which we are permitted to use and/or disclose your protected health information.

**To you or with Your Authorization:** We must disclose your protected health information to you, as described in the Individual Rights section of this notice. You may give us written authorization to use your protected health information or to disclose it to anyone for any purpose not listed on this notice. If you give us an authorization, you may revoke it in writing at any time. Your revocation will not affect any use or disclosures that we made as permitted by your authorization while it was in effect. Without your written authorization, we may not use or disclose your protected health information for any reason except those described in this notice.

**Disclosures to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services:** We are required to disclose your protected health information to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services when the Secretary is investigating or determining our compliance with the federal privacy regulations.

**To Plan Sponsors:** Where permitted by law, we may disclose your protected health information to the plan sponsor of your group health plan to permit the plan sponsor to perform plan administration functions. For example, a plan sponsor may contact us seeking information to evaluate future changes to your benefit plan. We may also disclose summary health information (this type of information is defined in the Federal Privacy Regulations) about the enrollees in your group health plan to the plan sponsor to obtain premium bids for the health insurance coverage offered through your group health plan or to decide whether to modify, amend or terminate your group health plan.

**To Family and Friends:** If you agree (or, if you are unavailable to agree), such as in a medical emergency situation we might disclose your protected health information to a family member, friend or other person to the extent necessary to help with your health care or with payment for your health care.

**Underwriting:** We may receive your protected health information for underwriting, premium rating or other activities relating to the creation, renewal or replacement of a contract of health insurance or health benefits. We will not use or further disclose this protected health information received under these circumstances for any other purpose, except as required by law, unless and until you enter into a contract of health insurance or health benefits with us.

**Health Oversight Activities:** We might disclose your protected health information to a health oversight agency for activities authorized by law, such as: audits; investigations; inspections; licensure or disciplinary actions; or civil, administrative, or criminal proceedings or actions. Oversight agencies seeking this information include government agencies that oversee: (i) the health care system; (ii) government benefit programs; (iii) other government regulatory programs; and (iv) compliance with civil rights laws.

**Abuse or Neglect:** We might disclose your protected health information to appropriate authorities if we reasonably believe that you might be a possible victim of abuse, neglect, domestic violence or other crimes.

**To Prevent a Serious Threat to Health or Safety:** Consistent with certain federal and state laws, we might disclose your protected health information if we believe that the disclosure is necessary to prevent or lessen a serious and imminent threat to the health or safety of a person or the public.

**Coroners, Medical Examiners, Funeral Directors, and Organ Donation:** We may disclose protected health information to a coroner or medical examiner for purposes of identifying you after you die, determining your cause of death, or for the coroner or medical examiner to perform other duties authorized by law. We may also disclose, as authorized by law, information to funeral directors so that they may carry out their duties on your behalf. Further, we might disclose protected health information to organizations that handle organ, eye, or tissue donation and transplantation.

**Research:** We may disclose your protected health information to researchers when an institutional review board or privacy board has: (1) reviewed the research proposal and established protocols to ensure the privacy of the information; and (2) approved the research.

**Inmates:** If you are an inmate of a correctional institution, we may disclose your protected health information to the correctional institution or to a law enforcement official for: (1) the institution to provide health care to you; (2) your health and safety and the health and safety of others; or (3) the safety and security of the correctional institution.

**Workers' Compensation:** We may disclose your protected health information to comply with workers' compensation laws and other similar programs that provide benefits for work-related injuries or illnesses.

**Public Health and Safety:** We may disclose your protected health information to the extent necessary to avert a serious and imminent threat to your health or safety or the health or safety of others.

**Required by Law:** We may use or disclose your protected health information when we are required to do so by law. For example, we must disclose your protected health information to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services upon their request for purposes of determining whether we are in compliance with federal privacy laws.

**Legal Process and Proceedings:** We may disclose your protected health information in response to a court or administrative order, subpoena, discovery request, or other lawful process, under certain circumstances. Under limited circumstances, such as a court order, warrant, or grand jury subpoena, we might disclose your protected health information to law enforcement officials.

**Law Enforcement:** We may disclose to a law enforcement official limited protected health information of a suspect, fugitive, material witness, crime victim, or missing person. We might disclose protected health information where necessary to assist law enforcement officials to capture an individual who has admitted to participation in a crime or has escaped from lawful custody.

**Military and National Security:** We may disclose to military authorities the protected health information of Armed Forces personnel under certain circumstances. We may disclose to federal officials protected health information required for lawful intelligence, counterintelligence, and other national security activities.

**Other Uses and Disclosures of Your Protected Health Information** Other uses and disclosures of your protected health information that are not described above will be made only with your written authorization. If you provide us with such an authorization, you may revoke the authorization in writing, and this revocation will be effective for future uses and disclosures of protected health information. However, the revocation will not be effective for information that we already have used or disclosed in reliance on your authorization.

## **Individual Rights**

**Access:** You have the right to look at or get copies of the protected health information contained in a designated record set, with limited exceptions. You may request that we provide copies in a format other than photocopies. We will use the format you request unless we cannot reasonably do so. You must make a request in writing to obtain access to your protected health information. You may obtain a form to request access by using the contact information listed at the end of this notice. You may also request access by sending a letter to the address at the end of this notice. If you request copies, we might charge you a reasonable fee for each page, and postage if you want the copies mailed to you.

We may deny your request to inspect and copy your protected health information in certain limited circumstances. Under certain conditions, our denial will not be reviewable. If this event occurs, we will inform you in our denial that the decision is not reviewable. If you are denied access to your information and the denial is subject to review, you may request that the denial be reviewed. A licensed health care professional chosen by us will review your request and the denial. The person performing this review will not be the same person who denied your initial request.

**Disclosure Accounting:** You have the right to receive a list of instances in which we or our business associates disclosed your protected health information for purposes other than treatment, payment, health care operations and certain other activities, after April 14, 2003. We will provide you with the date on which we made the disclosure, the name of the person or entity to which we disclosed your protected health information, a description of the protected health information we disclosed, the reason for the disclosure, and certain other information. If you request this list more than once in a 12-month period, we might charge you a reasonable, cost-based fee for responding to these additional requests.

You may request an accounting by submitting your request in writing using the information listed at the end of this notice. Your request may be for disclosures made up to 6 years before the date of your request, but in no event, for disclosures made before April 14, 2003.

**Restriction Requests:** You have the right to request that we place additional restrictions on our use or disclosure of your protected health information. We are not required to agree to these additional restrictions, but if we do, we will abide by our agreement (except in an emergency). Any agreement that we might make to a request for additional restrictions must be in writing and signed by a person authorized to make such an agreement on our behalf. We will not be liable for uses and disclosures made outside of the requested restriction unless our agreement to restrict is in writing. We are permitted to end our agreement to the requested restriction by notifying you in writing.

You may request a restriction by writing to us using the information listed at the end of this notice. In your request tell us: (1) the information of which you want to limit our use and disclosure; and (2) how you want to limit our use and/or disclosure of the information.

**Confidential Communication:** If you believe that a disclosure of all or part of your protected health information may endanger you, you have the right to request that we communicate with you in confidence about your protected health information. This means that you may request that we send you information by alternative means, or to an alternate location. We must accommodate your request if: it is reasonable, specifies the alternative means or alternate location, and specifies how payment issues (premiums and claims) will be handled. You may request a Confidential Communication by writing to us using the information listed at the end of this notice.

**Amendment:** You have the right to request that we amend your protected health information. Your request must be in writing, and it must explain why the information should be amended. We may deny your request if we did not create the information you want amended or for certain other reasons. If we deny your request, we will provide you with a written explanation. You may respond with a statement of disagreement to be appended to the information you wanted amended. If we accept your request to amend the information, we will make reasonable efforts to inform others, including people you name, of the amendment and to include the changes in any future disclosures of that information.

**Electronic Notice:** Even if you agree to receive this notice on our web site, or by electronic mail (e-mail), you are entitled to receive a paper copy as well. Please contact us using the information listed at the end of this notice to obtain this notice in written form. If the e-mail transmission has failed, and we are aware of the failure, then we will provide a paper copy of this notice to you.

## **Questions and Complaints**

### **Information on Charles County Government Privacy Practices:**

If you want more information about our privacy practices or have questions or concerns, please contact the office shown below.

### **Filing a Complaint:**

If you are concerned that we might have violated your privacy rights, or you disagree with a decision we made about your individual rights, you may use the contact information listed at the end of this notice to complain to us. You also may submit a written complaint to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). We will provide you with the contact information for DHHS upon request. We support your right to protect the privacy of your protected health and financial information. We will not retaliate in any way if you choose to file a complaint with us or with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

## **Charles County Government Contact Information**

<b>Contact Office:</b>	Department of Human Resources, HIPAA Privacy Office
<b>Telephone:</b>	301-645-0503
<b>Fax:</b>	301-396-8862
<b>E-Mail:</b>	donnickm@charlescountymd.gov
<b>Address:</b>	Charles County Government Department of Human Resources Attn: Assistant Director of Human Resources P. O. Box 2150 La Plata, MD 20646